

Application No. 10/677,188

Amendment dated March 13, 2006

Reply to Office Action of October 14, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

5 3. (Currently Amended) ~~The assembly of Claim 1,~~ An assembly for a towing hitch comprising:

a support connector adapted to be removably and movably connected to a towing hitch and pivotally connected to at least two arms;

10 a support structure adapted to be connected to a trailer and pivotally connected to the at least two arms;

a first arm pivotally connected at a first end to the support connector at a first position and pivotally connected at a second end at a first position to the support structure, and

a second arm pivotally connected at a first end to the support connector at a second position and pivotally connected at a second end at a second position to the support structure,

15 wherein the support connector is T-shaped in cross section.

4. (Currently Amended) The assembly of Claim 3 ~~±~~, wherein ~~the support connector is T-shaped in cross section and the first position of the first arm is along the horizontally extending portion of one end of the T-shaped support connector and the first~~
20 ~~position of the second arm is along the other end of the horizontally extending portion of the T-shaped support connector.~~

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The assembly of Claim 1,~~ An assembly for a towing hitch comprising:

a support connector adapted to be removably and movably connected to a towing hitch and pivotally connected to at least two arms;

a support structure adapted to be connected to a trailer and pivotally connected to the at least two arms;

5 a first arm pivotally connected at a first end to the support connector at a first position and pivotally connected at a second end at a first position to the support structure, and

a second arm pivotally connected at a first end to the support connector at a second position and pivotally connected at a second end at a second position to the support structure,

wherein the support connector is adapted to provide a plurality of positions to which the first arm and the second arm may be pivotally connected.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The assembly of Claim 1;~~ An assembly for a towing hitch comprising:

a support connector adapted to be removably and movably connected to a towing hitch and pivotally connected to at least two arms;

a support structure adapted to be connected to a trailer and pivotally connected to the at least two arms;

a first arm pivotally connected at a first end to the support connector at a first position and pivotally connected at a second end at a first position to the support structure, and

a second arm pivotally connected at a first end to the support connector at a second position and pivotally connected at a second end at a second position to the support structure,

wherein the support structure comprises a top panel connected to at least two side panels forming a housing within which at least a portion of the support connector is housed.

7. (Currently Amended) The assembly of Claim 6 ~~±~~, wherein ~~the support structure comprises a top panel connected to at least two side panels forming a housing,~~

Application No. 10/677,188

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~~within which at least a portion of the support connector and at least a portion of the first arm and the second arm are housed~~ in the housing.

8. (Currently Amended) The assembly of Claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein ~~the support structure comprises a top panel connected to at least two side panels forming a housing, within which substantially all of the support connector, the first arm and the second arm are housed~~ in the housing.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The assembly of Claim 1;~~ An assembly for a towing hitch comprising:

a support connector adapted to be removably and movably connected to a towing hitch and pivotally connected to at least two arms;

a support structure adapted to be connected to a trailer and pivotally connected to the at least two arms;

a first arm pivotally connected at a first end to the support connector at a first position and pivotally connected at a second end at a first position to the support structure, and

a second arm pivotally connected at a first end to the support connector at a second position and pivotally connected at a second end at a second position to the support structure,

wherein the support structure is adapted to provide a plurality of positions in the horizontal direction to which at least one of the first arm and the second arm may be selectively pivotally connected.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The assembly of Claim 1;~~ An assembly for a towing hitch comprising:

a support connector adapted to be removably and movably connected to a towing hitch and pivotally connected to at least two arms;

a support structure adapted to be connected to a trailer and pivotally connected to the at least two arms;

a first arm pivotally connected at a first end to the support connector at a first position and pivotally connected at a second end at a first position to the support structure, and

a second arm pivotally connected at a first end to the support connector at a second position and pivotally connected at a second end at a second position to the support structure,

wherein the first arm is adapted to provide a plurality of positions for the pivotal connection to at least one of the support connector and the support structure.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The assembly of Claim 1;~~ An assembly for a towing hitch comprising:

a support connector adapted to be removably and movably connected to a towing hitch and pivotally connected to at least two arms;

a support structure adapted to be connected to a trailer and pivotally connected to the at least two arms;

a first arm pivotally connected at a first end to the support connector at a first position and pivotally connected at a second end at a first position to the support structure, and

a second arm pivotally connected at a first end to the support connector at a second position and pivotally connected at a second end at a second position to the support structure,

wherein the second arm is adapted to provide a plurality of positions for the pivotal connection to at least one of the support connector and the support structure.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The assembly of Claim 1;~~ An assembly for a towing hitch comprising:

a support connector adapted to be removably and movably connected to a towing hitch and pivotally connected to at least two arms;

a support structure adapted to be connected to a trailer and pivotally connected to the at least two arms;

a first arm pivotally connected at a first end to the support connector at a first position and pivotally connected at a second end at a first position to the support structure, and

a second arm pivotally connected at a first end to the support connector at a second position and pivotally connected at a second end at a second position to the support structure,

wherein the ~~first position and the second position of the first arm~~ forms a line at an angle other than vertical.

13. (Currently Amended) The assembly of Claim 12, wherein the ~~first position and the second position of the second arm~~ forms a line at an angle other than vertical.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The assembly of Claim 1;~~ An assembly for a towing hitch comprising:

a support connector adapted to be removably and movably connected to a towing hitch and pivotally connected to at least two arms;

a support structure adapted to be connected to a trailer and pivotally connected to the at least two arms;

a first arm pivotally connected at a first end to the support connector at a first position and pivotally connected at a second end at a first position to the support structure, and

a second arm pivotally connected at a first end to the support connector at a second position and pivotally connected at a second end at a second position to the support structure,

wherein the first arm and the second arm angle in towards each other.

15. (Twice Amended) The assembly of Claim 12 ~~+~~, wherein the first arm forms an angle in the range of approximately 4 degrees to approximately 10 degrees relative to vertical.

16. (Twice Amended) The assembly of Claim 13 ~~15~~, wherein the second arm forms an angle in the range of approximately 4 degrees to approximately 10 degrees relative to vertical.

17. (Twice Amended) The assembly of Claim 12 ~~1~~, wherein the first arm forms an angle in the range of approximately 6 degrees to approximately 8 degrees relative to vertical.

18. (Twice Amended) The assembly of Claim 13 ~~17~~, wherein the second arm forms an angle in the range of approximately 6 degrees to approximately 8 degrees relative to vertical.

19. (Previously Amended) A towing hitch assembly comprising:

a support connector comprising a first side and a second side and comprising a first end and a second end, the support connector being removably and rotatably attachable to a towing hitch and pivotally connected to four arms,

5 a support structure comprising a first side and a second side and comprising a first end and a second end, the support structure being adapted to be connected in a fixed relationship to a unit to be towed and pivotally connected to the four arms,

10 a first arm pivotally connected at a first end to the first side and at the first end of the support connector and pivotally connected at a second end to the first side and at the first end of the support structure,

a second arm pivotally connected at a first end to the first side and at the second end of the support connector and pivotally connected at a second end to the first side and at the second end of the support structure,

a third arm pivotally connected at a first end to the second side and at the first end of
15 the support connector and pivotally connected at a second end to the second side and at the
first end of the support structure,

a fourth arm pivotally connected at a first end to the second side and at the second end
of the support connector and pivotally connected at a second end to the second side and at
the second end of the support structure,

20 wherein the first arm and the second arm are aligned at an angle other than parallel to
each other, and

wherein the third arm and the fourth arm are aligned at an angle other than parallel to
each other.

20. (original) The towing hitch assembly of Claim 19, wherein the support
connector is T-shaped in cross section.

21. (original) The towing hitch assembly of Claim 19, wherein the support
connector is adapted to provide a plurality of positions to which at least one of the arms may
be pivotally connected.

22. (original) The towing hitch assembly of Claim 19, wherein the support
structure is adapted to provide a plurality of positions to which at least one of the arms may
be pivotally connected.

23. (original) The towing hitch assembly of Claim 19, wherein at least one of the
arms is adapted to provide a plurality of positions by which the arm may be pivotally
connected.

24. (original) The towing hitch assembly of Claim 19, wherein the support structure comprises a top panel connected to at least two side panels forming a housing, within which at least a portion of the support connector and at least a portion of the arms are housed.

25. (original) The towing hitch assembly of Claim 19, wherein the first arm and the second arm angle in towards each other when at rest.

26. (original) The towing hitch assembly of Claim 19, wherein the third arm and the fourth arm angle in towards each other when at rest.

27. (Previously Amended) An apparatus for a towing hitch, comprising:
a connector having a first end and a second end, the connector being releasably and movably attachable to a towing hitch,

5 a first arm pivotally connected to the first end of the connector and pivotally connected to at least one of a towed unit and a towing unit, the first arm forming an angle other than vertical, and

a second arm pivotally connected to the second end of the connector and adapted to be pivotally connected to at least one of a towed unit and a towing unit, the second arm forming an angle other than vertical and other than parallel to the angle of the first arm.